



California Postsecondary Education Commission

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Commission to Discuss Future of Higher Education in California with Senator Jack Scott and UC Acting Provost Wyatt “Rory” Hume

SACRAMENTO — March 23, 2006 — Senator Jack Scott, Chair of the Senate Education Policy and Budget Committees and University of California Acting Provost Wyatt “Rory” Hume will address the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) at its March 28-29, 2006 meeting. Each will discuss areas critical to the future of higher education in California.

Senator Scott’s experience as President of the Pasadena Community College, and his extensive legislative career in the Assembly and the Senate, have served to make him one of the most thoughtful and articulate advocates for higher education in California.

“The Commission is eager to hear Senator Scott’s ideas about the future of California higher education,” said Chair Howard Welinsky. “His great knowledge and understanding of the issues have lead to a confidence in his leadership on education issues that is unequalled either within, or outside, the halls of the Legislature.”

On March 28th Senator Scott will discuss his higher education legislative initiatives including long-range issues of access and affordability, the need to improve California’s transfer function, and the role played by higher education in preparing graduates for 21st Century jobs.

On March 29th Dr. Hume will engage the Commissioners in a discussion of current graduate and professional education initiatives at the University of California. Graduate education at the University of California plays a pivotal role in maintaining California’s leadership position in the development of new global economy discoveries, but has seen support for its programs erode over time. The University is seeking to refocus its attention on graduate and professional education.

“We are delighted to have Dr. Hume join us for a discussion of the future of graduate education at the University of California,” said CPEC Executive Director Murray J. Haberman. He added, “These are the students who will maintain California’s stature in the global economy, and we can ill afford to starve them of the resources necessary to continue leading the way in so many critical fields of research.”

The Commission's agenda also includes a discussion of the future of California's policy on student fees, an examination of how best to meet the needs of students in rural and remote areas, and a review of current legislation affecting higher education.

The California Postsecondary Education Commission advises the Governor and Legislature on higher education policy and fiscal issues. The Commission's primary focus is to ensure that the state's educational resources are used effectively to provide Californians with postsecondary education opportunities.

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